

Souder
Traficant

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□ 1906

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF H.J. RES. 84, DISAPPROVING THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER SECTION 203 OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 TRANSMITTED TO THE CONGRESS ON MARCH 5, 2002

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-447) on the resolution (H. Res. 414) providing for the disposition of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 84) disapproving the action taken by the President under section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974 transmitted to the Congress on March 5, 2002, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

OFFICER MARLENE LOOS NAMED OFFICER OF THE MONTH

(Mr. GRUCCI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRUCCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Suffolk County Police Officer Marlene Loos, who was recently named the Officer of the Month by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Marlene Loos epitomizes the bravery of the men and women who patrol our streets, serve our neighbors, and protect our children day and night.

On the morning of December 10, 1998, while responding to a 911 call, Officer Loos was shot point-blank in the chest. After struggling to her feet to try and protect people surrounding the incident, she was shot again in the arm. Despite being shot twice, Officer Loos was able to cover a bystander with her own body, hoping that her body armor would protect them both.

Fortunately, Officer Loos was able to survive the attack on that December morning. Coming from a family of police officers, she continues to serve our community on Long Island, and I am extremely proud to have her as my constituent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Officer Loos on this recent honor and thanking her and her fellow officers for protecting and making our communities safe throughout this Nation.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN). Under the Speaker's an-

nounced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

J-1 VISA WAIVER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor this evening to express my opposition to the termination of the J-1 visa waiver program.

Currently, foreign medical graduates are allowed to come to the United States on a J-1 visa for up to 3 years to train in accredited residency programs in rural underserved parts of the country. The impetus behind accepting physicians from other countries, foreign medical graduates, and training them in American residency positions is to attract physicians to provide care to the medically underserved who live in rural areas where doctors trained in the United States do not want to practice.

Mr. Speaker, the law states that once a residency program is complete, the doctors are required to return to their country of origin for 2 years. However, the government has the authority to waive the requirements if it is in the United States' interest to keep the physician here. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Branch was thrilled by the waiver because it provided the opportunity to retain medical trainees who would continue to serve in typically medically underserved communities in rural America.

But, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in the past few weeks, the USDA has indicated an intention to stop granting such permission under the J-1 visa waiver program. Although it is clear there is a lack of sufficient health care in rural America, and although it is clear that qualified physicians from abroad are willing to come to the U.S. to serve in these medically lacking communities, nevertheless, the government has proposed to end this program entirely.

Mr. Speaker, since September 11, national security concerns have taken hold and new extensive background checks have been put in place. The USDA claims the extra money required to implement background checks on foreign medical graduates would be too burdensome and therefore the program must end. Currently, there are approximately a little more than 80 applications for the waiver that are still pending, and after these applications have been processed, the program is slated to end.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is not justification for the cessation of the J-1 visa waiver program. Terminating this program and preventing qualified physicians from serving communities in America that lack sufficient health care does our country a

great injustice. Mr. Speaker, stopping the granting of these waivers is unacceptable, and I would ask that the USDA reconsider, and that we do whatever we can, myself and my colleagues, to prevent this valuable program from ending because it is so important to rural America and to the health care of Americans in rural areas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GIBBONS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcall vote number 126. I was unable to make that vote at the time. Had I been here I would have voted "yes" on that rollcall vote, and I would like that to be reflected in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL FACCHINA, AN EXTRAORDINARY CITIZEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, a week and a day ago, Charles County, Calvert County, and Dorchester County in Maryland were hit by a tornado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention a truly remarkable individual from my district who is helping us respond to that tornado.

As you know, Southern Maryland was recently devastated by what is believed to be the second most powerful tornado ever to hit the East Coast. It is tough times like these, Mr. Speaker, that brings out the best of what America has to offer, for those who have lost a great deal themselves rise to the occasion to help others who are in need.

Mr. Paul Facchina is a tremendous example of one such extraordinary person who heads up a company peopled by extraordinary individuals. Mr. Facchina owns and operates Facchina Construction in LaPlata, Maryland. That small town in Charles County completely lost 48 businesses in the matter of minutes that the tornado took to pass through. Lawyers' offices, banks, convenience stores, fast food restaurants, grocery stores, a lumber yard, all destroyed.

Mr. Paul Facchina's company was among those that were decimated, and he has every intention of rebuilding a